

USAID/Vietnam Competitiveness Initiative, Phase II (USAID/VNCI)
Monthly Report for February 2013

Project 30/APCA

- *Closing Ceremony:* VNCI and APCA worked together to organize a closing ceremony for the Technical Support to Enhance Capacity for Administrative Reform and Improve Competitiveness under USAID/VNCI Project. The event was held on Tuesday, February 26, 2013 at Daewoo Hotel, Ha Noi with the participation of an MOJ vice minister, OOG Vice Chairman, USAID EG Director, representatives from the relevant MOJ and OOG departments and news agencies. The National Database of APs and related assets were handed over to APCA during the ceremony. The MOJ and APCA leaders expressed appreciation for the technical support and showed willingness to take further steps to move administrative reforms forward. USAID/VNCI Director, Scott Jazynka, presented some important recommendations for the administrative reform program under MOJ to create a more efficient administrative system in Vietnam. USAID/VNCI also delivered a paper on reform strategies written by the international consultant, Scott Jacobs, to the MOJ Vice Minister.
- *Establishment of a new ACAPR:* With VNCI support, APCA/MOJ submitted to the Prime Minister the draft decision on establishing a new Advisory Council for Administrative Procedure Reform (ACAPR) with 26 members headed by Minister of Justice. The membership includes representatives from various government agencies and business associations, both domestic and foreign. Dr. Ngo Hai Phan, Director General of APCA, was appointed the Secretary General of the ACAPR. The ACAPR is allowed to mobilize experts and resources from members to carryout studies and make recommendations to the Prime Minister for administrative reforms.
- *Institutional support:* VNCI provided APCA with 50 copies of a book on Austria's E-Government titled “Administration on the net – ABC guide to E-Government in Austria”. This book will be used by APCA as an important reference for the Master Plan on Simplification of Citizen-related Paperwork and National Database of Citizens.

PERQ/RIA

- *PERQ outreach:* On February 1, 2013 the VNCI's RIA team made a half-day presentation to the Institute of Legal Sciences (ILS), MOJ on RIA and how RIA workshops are organized for civil servants under PERQ. The purpose was to transfer the know-how of organizing RIA training so ILS can set up similar training for civil servants of MOJ and beyond.

PCI

- *PCI 2012 report:* The PCI team finished the PCI 2012 Report with five chapters covering the rankings and analyses on the impact of PCI on provincial governance reform, investors' response to business environment shocks, corruption in public procurement and labor relations in FDI enterprises. A section also highlighted perceived risks of doing business in Vietnam and how foreign companies value and mitigate the risk. the report was then proofread and translated into Vietnamese for publication.

- *PCI 2012 launch ceremony:* Meanwhile, we also prepared the logistics for the launch event, including banner, backdrop, media coverage, etc. The event is scheduled on March 14, 2013 and it will take place at the Hanoi Daewoo Hotel.

PPP/Infrastructure

PPP Project Support

- *E-Government Procurement project:* As part of a capacity building exercise, VNCI supported the PMU and PPP Office in reviewing and refining the financial model of this project. VNCI is also providing comments on all related bidding documents.
- *Soc Trang's Water Treatment Plant expansion:* VNCI consultants presented a Project Assessment and recommendation to the PPA/PPP Office. The preparation of a project proposal is currently underway.
- *Nghi Son WWTP:* The US\$ 9.1 billion Nghi Son Oil Refinery contract was signed on January 27, 2013. As a result, the Government of Vietnam will restart exploring the potential for the Nghi Son WWTP as a PPP pilot project. This is a very good signal for Thanh Hoa People's Committee after a long negotiation.
- *List of 10 projects in Thanh Hoa and 03 projects in Ca Mau:* VNCI is considering supporting the PPP Office to carry out a quick screening that includes identifying critical information that will be required to carry out an assessment. This is a first step in identifying potential projects for the pipeline.

Institutional Support

- *Canada study mission:* With USAID/VNCI support, a delegation of 12 GoV officials from MPI, MOF, MOT, MOC and Dong Nai Province and 02 VNCI staff conducted a study mission to Canada from February 19 to February 28, 2013. The delegates had opportunities to experienced first-hand successful PPP projects in Canada and learnt about the institutional set-up for the PPP model to work in Canada.
- *Capacity building:* USAID/VNCI PPP specialist, Mr. Ned White reviewed the medium-term PPP capacity building for the PPP office. A report will be submitted to serve as foundation for capacity building on PPP in Vietnam.
- *PPP outreach:* A USAID/VNCI expert participated in the South East Asia Port Expansion Summit 2013 to gather information for Dong Nai Inter-port highway project and to better understand the status of port development in Vietnam.
- *Project Development Facility-PDF:* USAID/VNCI decided to hire Mr. Zach Kaplan for his second trip to Vietnam for assessing 2 to 3 projects/conducting a prefeasibility study and finalizing the PDF guideline as well as bidding documents for recruiting ADB's technical shadow team.

Administrative

- *The RIA and APCA/Project 30 components ended on February 28, 2013:* Over half of the VNCI ended their work with VNCI. VNCI closed its office in preparation for demolition. The remaining VNCI staff will work out of the STAR Office, MPI and VCCI.